

**Africa-RISING Ghana**

**Upper West Research Team Meeting, 3rd September, 2015**

**Venue: MOFA conference hall, Wa**

The meeting commenced with a prayer from a volunteer, then Self introduction of participants and a welcome address by upper west regional coordinator on behalf of project chief scientist who was out of the country, she welcome all participants and discussed the previous meeting’s minutes with the participants.

Discussions from Previous minutes.

The discussions on the previous minutes revealed the following:

* Poor cowpea germination especially the Zaayura variety.
* Heavy down pour washes planted seed away and germination was affected.
* Some farmers rush to plant without A.E.A s supervision
* Some farmers could not acquire land for their own trials
* Some farmers out of negligence planted without using the required protocols
* Inputs were not supplied to negligent farmers who planted without protocols

Generally, facilitating farmers in the intervention communities expressed joy and happiness of various crops performance in their communities except few cases of maize fields getting flooded due to erratic pattern of the rains this cropping season.

* They were enthusiastic about high yielding varieties of maize, cowpea, soybean and groundnut
* Free inputs; seed, fertilizer and chemicals supplied
* Row planting which has made easy undertaking of cultural practices such as weeding, spraying, fertilizer application and
* Early maturing varieties been given to farmers.

Dr Saaka emphasized on the negligence nature of some farmers, sitting an example on a situation where field were laid by extension officer and that particular farmer still go and plant anyhow instead of planting by the design protocol. In a similar situation a field was laid at passé for maize baby and the farmer planted sorghum instead of maize.

**Brief on established trials for 2015 cropping season in Nadowli –Kaleo**

The district director during his session outlined the established trials in the various communities as follows;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Community | Type of trial | Number of trials established |
| Goriyiri | Soya- strip crop | 3 |
|  | Cowpea- strip crop | 5 |
|  | Groundnut- strip | 1 |
|  | Maize- soybean rotation | 1 |
|  | Maize-groundnut rotation | 4 |
|  | Maize –cowpea rotation | 6 |
|  | Cowpea Baby | 5 |
|  | Maize baby | 7 |
|  | Soybean Baby | 5 |
|  |  |  |
| Gyilli | Maize- soybean rotation | 10 |
|  | Maize –cowpea | 10 |
|  | Cowpea Baby | 10 |
|  | Maize baby | 10 |
|  |  |  |
| Goli | Baby maize | 10 |
|  | Cowpea Baby | 10 |
|  | Maize- soybean rotation | 10 |
|  | Maize –cowpea rotation | 10 |
|  | Maize - groundnut | 8 |
|  |  |  |
| Natorduori | Maize Baby | 6 |
|  | Cowpea Baby | 8 |
|  | Maize –cowpea rotation | 10 |
|  | Maize soybean rotation | 5 |
|  |  |  |
| Papu | Maize –cowpea rotation | 10 |
|  | Maize soybean rotation | 10 |
|  | Maize Baby | 10 |
|  | Cowpea Baby | 10 |
|  |  |  |

The District Director of agriculture brief the house on extra activities undertaken to control aflatoxin in maize and groundnut. According to him forty(40) farmers were involved in the aflatoxin control programme in the district comprising twenty (20) maize and twenty (20) groundnut farmers respectively.

Again He mentioned that he is has prepared and submitted a budget for approval on livestock production specifically piggery and poultry production and backyard vegetable gardening.

**Brief on established trials for 2015 cropping season in WA-West**

The Wa West district MoFA activity was delivered by Mr. Vuozie Freddrick on behalf of the district of Agriculture, he gave the breakdown as follows;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Community | Type of trial | Number of trials established |
| Siriyiri | Up scaling strip and Rotation | 20 |
|  | Baby trials | 10 |
|  |  |  |
| Guo | Up scaling strip and Rotation | 20 |
|  | Baby trials | 20 |
|  |  |  |
| Zanko | Maize cowpea ( women group) | 38 |
|  | Baby trials | 40 |
|  | Up scaling strip and rotation | 20 |
|  |  |  |
| Passé | Up scaling strip and Rotation | 20 |
|  | Baby trials | 50 |
|  |  |  |
| Nyagli | Up scaling strip and Rotation | 20 |
|  | Baby trials | 20 |
|  |  |  |

**Brief presentation on Theme 1: Improving of cereal Legume Cropping Systems**

Dr Saaka of Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) brief the meeting on their activities on the maize-cowpea rotation, he said research activities should not be basically on the solely dependents on farmers as the main source of labor to undertake cultural practices and so therefore hired labor from any source should be considered in undertaking this activities. He also said that he was undertaking some research activity on sorghum at different locations such as Jirapa and Bamahu where” serwa” cultivar of sorghum with poor germination percentage is growing at Bamahu in the Wa municipality.

He also highlighted the potentials of different cowpea varieties like songotra and padituya and varieties of maize, where he made comparison of the two(2) saying that songotra at flowering stage is likely to be affected by diseases such as dye-back as compared to padituya but also have advantage over padituya with its resistance to striger and other pest and diseases. Redomil, Mancozeb and Sancozeb were recommended fungicides to control fungal infections on cowpea,

Termites attack on maize growing on the field was another issue raised.

**Research For Development Platform Nadowli –Kaleo District**

The Nadowli district director who is also the R4D chair gave a brief of some of the activities undertaken so far by the platform. He said information flow should follow the top –down bottom approach, good management practices in livestock management and good and timely cultural practices on the farm in order to obtain maximum output, he also mentioned that the declining soil fertility was as result of human practices such as deforestation, bush burning and sand winning and hence should be discouraged but rather encourage aforestation.

**USAID Review Team Visit and Field Days**

Hamid said that the USAID review team will be visiting from the 14th to 21st of this month and the communities we propose they visit are Goli, Zanko and Pase so facilitators from those communities should take note and prepare their fields for the visit, he also made the point that the fact that we have propose those communities does not mean the reviewers will be visiting only those communities hence all ten communities should be ready for the visit.

The days for this year’s field days and exchange visit were deliberated upon by the group. The propose the proposed the 22nd  to the 25th for Wa West Exchange visit and the 28th of September to the 2nd of October for the Nadowli district. On field days the group proposed the following days for the organization of community field days. The dates are; 5/10/15 Goli and Goriyiri. 6/10/15 Gyilli and Papu. 21/9/15 Natorduori that is for Nadowli –Kaleo and Wa-West as follows 9/10/15 Zanko. 7/10/15 pase. 2/10/15 Guo-Siriyiri. 16/10/15 Nyagli. Hamid and Mary mentioned that IITA will be responsible to hold the field days.

**Brief on Africa RISING Activities on Partner Organizations**

Madam Diana Bosoro of Community Aid for Rural Development (CARD) also gave a brief of what her outfit is doing in some of our intervention communities. She said they are currently implementing the Greater Rural Opportunity for Women (GROW) project which was targeted at women groups. The project provided boxes to working groups for their weekly contributions. They also link the women groups to agro input dealers such as Antika and 18th April to supply seed and fertilizer. They also train the group members to cultivate soybean and use that as a recipe together with maize as supplement nutrition in children and pregnant women.

Closing Remarks

Mary thank all participants for coming and making good contributions for the success of the project and wish all a safe journey back to their destinations.

Appendix



